

Applicant: Juha Maijala et al.
Application No.: 10/507,437
Response to Office action dated Jul. 3, 2007
Response filed July 30, 2007

Remarks

Claims 21–37 remain pending in the application, claims 23, 34, and 35 are withdrawn. In the Office action dated Jul. 3, 2007, claim 21 was rejected as failing to comply with the written description requirement and claims 21, 36 were rejected as being indefinite. Claims 36 and 37 were rejected for nonstatutory double patenting over claims 1 and 3 of U.S. patent No. 7,186,445. Claims 21, 22, 24–27 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Reilly* US 3,680,779 in view of *Williams et al* US 3,549,403. Claims 36–37 were indicated as distinguishing over the prior art if the double patenting and 25 U.S.C. 112 rejections could be overcome.

A terminal disclaimer under 37 CFR § 1.321 accompanies this amendment, as well as the fee under 37 CFR § 1.20(d). This terminal disclaimer overcomes the obviousness type double patenting rejection over claims 1 and 3 of US 7,186,445.

Claim 36 has been amended to replace the language “strengthen the performance” which the examiner finds indefinite with a description from the specification of how the performance is strengthened to “arranged to attain an even electric field” i.e., a more even electric field than the one produced by the electrode formed by the feeding nozzle alone. This is set forth in the specification at paragraph [0059]. Claim 36 has also been amended to consistently refer to the electrodes as negatively charging electrodes as opposed to upstream and downstream electrodes. As amended, claims 36–37 correct the indefiniteness identified by the examiner and are not rejected over the prior art.

Claim 21 has been amended remove reference to “pre-charging electrodes” which the examiner finds unsupported by the specification with the term “extra electrodes” as used in the specification at paragraph [0059]. Although paragraph [0059] refers to “extra negative electrodes”. Paragraph [0041] last sentence, and original PCT claim 3, clearly indicate that the electrodes may be positive or negative. With the removal of “pre-charging electrodes”, claim 21 is no longer indefinite.

Claim 21 as amended distinguishes over the prior art *Reilly* in view of *Williams et al.*, by the step of “*blowing the pre-charged particles from the feeding nozzle toward the*

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continuous or endless planar surface". This language serves to emphasize the claimed use of the feeding nozzle as opposed to the *metering roll* of *Reilly*. Nozzle has a definite meaning – Nozzle: *A tubelike device, usually streamlined, for accelerating and directing a fluid, which pressure decreases as it leaves the nozzle.* McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Engineering 1984, or from the web: *A nozzle is a mechanical device designed to control the characteristics of a fluid flow as it exits (or enters) an enclosed chamber or pipe.*

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nozzle#High_velocity_nozzles); Nozzle: *A projecting part with an opening, as at the end of a hose, for regulating and directing a flow of fluid.*

(<http://www.answers.com/nozzle&r=67>). *Reilly* does not show a nozzle, or *blowing*, in accordance with the foregoing definitions of a nozzle. The specification, consistent with these definitions of nozzle, indicates at paragraph [0061] that the powdery film forming material is carried by a fluid, e.g. air, and blown from the feeding nozzle. Further the extra electrodes of *Reilly* are below, and not laterally spaced from the metering roll and thus does not meet the limitation of "laterally spaced from and between extra electrodes to form the row of electrodes" as now claimed.

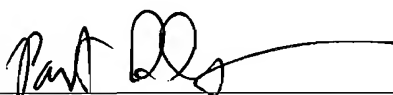
Claims 22, and 24–33 depend from claim 21 which is allowable as amended and add additional limitations which in combination further distinguish the invention over the prior art.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance.

Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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